BLOOD ALONE

The Characters

Kuroe Kurose

A young man who makes a living as a novelist and works as a P.I. & man-for-hire on the side. Thanks to the special abilities his eyes have gained, he can see past any tricks by anyone with supernatural powers. He is a bit naïve to the feelings of women around him, and he currently lives with Misaki as her guardian.

Misaki Minato

Little is known about her past except for the fact that her father was a famous musician. Both she and her father were targeted by vampires, and Misaki has been turned as a result. However, the vampire side of her still lays dormant, so she acts no differently than any other girl her age.

Sayaka Sainome

She is the daughter of a rich doctor, and currently works as the chief of the forensics department with the police. She's known Kuroe since their days as students, and she occasionally calls upon Kuroe for his special abilities. She possibly has feelings for Kuroe, and she also apparently has a special ability.

Higure

Despite his looks and the way he acts, he is one of the most powerful vampires left in the world. He is a friend of Misaki, and as an elder vampire, he is also in a sense her mentor.

Sly

A vampire who is in the business of selling information as well as working as a man for hire. He apparently has a good working relationship with Kuroe and hates vampires for turning him into one.

Maria

A renfield who was previously under the influence of a secret order of vampire assassins, she is now under Higure's protection. She is also Misaki's only female friend of the same age.

The story so far...

Upon seeing his sister taken from him by a vampire, Kuroe's life mission was to find his sister and get revenge on the vampire who shattered his life. With the power he gained through an injury to his eyes, he traveled to Europe where a famous vampire hunter trained him to become one of the humans most feared by vampires.

Currently, he lives in Japan with a young girl named Misaki who had the unfortunate fate of being turned. While he thinks of her more as a daughter or as a younger sister, she sees things very differently.

Translator's Notes

In Blood Alone, we translated the Japanese word "mahoutsukai" as "magician" which is a very literal translation of the word. However, the English sense of the word "magician" is that of someone who does magic tricks. The Japanese sense of the word is closer to that of a witch & warlock. But because the English words witch & warlock have a negative connotation (as in the person(s) being evil) whereas the Japanese word generally has a positive connotation, we translated the word literally as "magician." So in the world of Blood Alone, a magician is someone who can cast magic spells and can be either good or evil.

BLOOD ALONE

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MASAYUKI TAKANO

Infinity Studios

ISBN 13 978-1-59697-254-4
ISBN 10 1-59697-254-8
51095
9 781596 972544
Price : $10.95 US
Price : $13.50 Canada
GRAPHIC NOVEL
AGES 13+

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BLOOD ALONE

Episode 20

LONDON WALTZ

霧の中のお姫様 — The Princess within the Mist

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Contents

FROWN...

.....

WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME CAKE AND TRY TO FORGET ABOUT IT.

OKAY?

UM...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STAY UPSET ALL NIGHT, ARE YOU..?

SPLAT

AH..!!

SLAP

HMP

WHA... HONESTLY ~!!

KYA..!

BE PATIENT, BE PATIENT, BE PATIENT...

THAT WOULD ONLY UPSET HIM FURTHER, AND I WOULDN'T WANT THAT WOULD I?

SLUMP

IT... IT'S NO USE.

I SHOULDN'T RAISE MY VOICE...

DIRIRING~

DIRIRING~

MISAKI?

IT'S ME.

HELLO ..?

.....?

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

.....

.....

EH?

I...

I CAN'T DO THIS.

HE PURPOSELY THREW THE CAKE AND OTHER SNACKS I PREPARED FOR HIM ON THE FLOOR.

YAAH—!

YANK

TOSS

AH—!

I MEAN HE'S... THAT CHILD IS SO SPOILED!!

AND IF I SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT ALL HE STARTS SCREAMING AND CRYING. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!

HE KEEPS PULLING ON MY HAIR AS A PRANK, AND HE RANDOMLY THROWS TANTRUMS FOR NO REASON.

HMM—... THAT DOES SOUND LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL...

WE SHOULD BE THERE SOME TIME TONIGHT SO PLEASE WATCH OVER HIM FOR ME UNTIL THEN, OKAY?

...sigh...

I'M JUST ABOUT TO PICK UP HIS MOTHER TO COME AND GET HIM.

BUT REGARDLESS, I WAS HOPING THAT YOU COULD WATCH OVER HIM FOR A BIT LONGER.

VROOM

I UNDERSTAND... I'LL DO MY BEST.

OKAY...

EH..?

I WONDER HOW SOMEONE CAN BECOME SO SPOILED AND ACT LIKE SUCH A BRAT...

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW ANYONE COULD TURN OUT LIKE THAT, IT'S ALMOST A MYSTERY.

BUT YOU KNOW...

THANKS.

NO, NO, IT'S NOTHING... I WAS JUST THINKING BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE QUITE A HANDFUL AS WELL.

.....

...WAIT A SECOND, WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?

OH, I WAS NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SWEET YOUNG LADY.

NO, REALLY...

EVEN IF YOU GOT TOGETHER A BUNCH OF CHILDREN FROM HERE AND THERE, I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN A MATCH FOR YOU.

HA HA HA.

WHAT~?! THAT'S NOT TRUE~!!

TAP

MAAA

MAAA

SON OF A...

!!

Part I

Episode 20

LONDON WALTZ

光の中の姫様 — The Princess within the Mist

THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO BUY MORE TIME...

WAIT, YOU'RE ASIAN..? DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

I PLAN ON TURNING YOU INTO ASHES BEFORE THAT WOUND OF YOURS HEALS.

WEREN'T ALL OF YOU BUDDHISTS SUPPOSED TO BE MERCIFUL OR SOME-THING?

BUT.. BEFORE YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER, I WANTED TO LEAVE BEHIND A FEW WORDS... THAT'S OK WITH YOU, RIGHT?

.....

I GIVE UP, I LOSE

AL... ALRIGHT, THEN.

WELL, UM...

.....

FINE... WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO SAY?

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.

MY BAD...

WOOSH

CRACK

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?!

BECAUSE THE DEMON

IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE ALWAYS ALONE

HAAA

HAAA

DAMN IT..

THIS BASTARD ..!!

THERE!

RIGHT THERE!!

ON YOUR RIGHT, MAN! YOUR RIGHT!!

WHATRE YOU DOING MAN?! YOU'RE GONNA LET HIM GET AWAY AT THIS RATE!!

THIS GUY'S REALLY FAST AND AGILE~!!

MAN, SHUT THE HELL UP! YOU'RE YAKKING BACK THERE LIKE SOME STUPID BITCH!!

SWISH

YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN IN ONE CLEAN HIT THIS WHOLE TIME HAVE YOU~?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE OUT ONE UNARMED HUMAN.

GEEZE TALK ABOUT LOOKING BAD...

HEY...

SO STOP SITTING THERE ACTING LIKE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL ~!!

AND BESIDES, YOU'RE FULL OF BULLET HOLES!

LOOK AT YOUR ARM MAN, IT'S BROKEN!!

DAMN DUDE, THAT'S PATHE-TIC~!!

I SAID SHUT UP!!

HUH?

DANGLE

GUYS TASTE LIKE CRAP AND IT'S MUCH MORE FUN MESSING AROUND WITH WOMEN!

I'M DONE PLAYING AROUND! LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH SO WE CAN GO EAT SOME GIRLS IN THE AREA!!

WHAT?

MAN, FORGET THIS... GIVE ME THAT GUN!

HAAA

HAAA

I SAID, GIVE ME THAT GUN!!

CHAMP'S MONASTERY

I WANT YOU TO SUFFER BEFORE YOU DIE!

THI-THOTH

CAN?

UWAA ..?!

SHINK

CRACK

WHAT THE..?!
STEP
SHLING

YES, I KNOW.

ZZZZ

SON OF A...

DID YOU... REALLY THINK...

THAT YOU COULD KILL VAMPIRES... WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

DOESN'T MEAN WE ALWAYS HUNT ALONE, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE VANATOARE...

AAAA

YIPPIE KAY AY~

BITCH ~

JESSIE ~!!

JESSIE ..!!

SORRY, BUT WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A HAND..?

KUROE.

PSSSHH

!!

LEAN

JESSIE —!!

BUT JESSIE...

STOP RIGHT THERE KUROE.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT I WAS HURT.

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, KUROE.

.....

IT'S A BAD HABIT OF YOURS.

JUST LIKE THAT, YOU ALWAYS THINK EVERYTHING IS YOUR FAULT.

♪

♪

WELL~ TO BE MORE ACCURATE, PART OF THE BLAME SHOULD FALL ON "HIM" FOR GIVING US SUCH UNRELIABLE INFORMATION...

THE ONLY PERSON AT FAULT IS MYSELF FOR LETTING DOWN MY GUARD.

JESSIE ~!!

AH... LOOK AT YOU....

IT HURTS ME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS JESSIE~!!

SLAM

THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!! I WON'T GO EASY ON THE PEOPLE THAT DID THIS TO YOU!!

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE ONES RESPONSIBLE, I'VE ALREADY TURNED THEM INTO DUST.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT HAPPENED..?

IF I HAD THE POWER, I'D FIND THE CREEPS THAT DID THIS AND GIVE THEM A GOOD BEATING!!

IT WOULD SEEM AS THOUGH INTELLIGENCE FROM SCOTLAND YARD ISN'T AS RELIABLE AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT, ALLEN?

Note : Scotland Yard is the name of London's metropolitan police.

WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING IF AN ARUHIEK HAPPENED TO BE THERE AS WELL..?

YOU DIDN'T TELL US THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO OF THEM.

Note : Aruhiek = Elder Generation

WELL, PLEASE DON'T BE SO HARD ON ME JESSIE~

POP

MMM~...

WE'RE SO SHORT ON MANPOWER THAT WE EVEN HAVE TO RESORT TO GETTING HELP FROM OUTSIDERS LIKE YOURSELVES.

SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE EVERYTHING FIRST.

EVEN IF YOU SAY "SCOTLAND YARD," ALL WE EVER DO WHEN IT INVOLVES CASES LIKE THIS IS TO CLEAN UP AFTER DEAD BODIES.

SQUEAK SQUEAK

CHA RA RAN~

WELL, THIS TIME AROUND LET'S LOOK AT IT THIS WAY... INSTEAD OF ONE EVIL VAMPIRE, YOU GOT RID OF TWO EVIL VAMPIRES. ISN'T THAT A REWARD IN ITSELF? WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?

AH— THAT WOULD BE MY BEEPER.

YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY THAT.

MY APOLOGIES JESSIE~

IT'S A SHAME I HAVE TO RUN OFF SO QUICKLY BUT I HAVE SOMEPLACE TO BE.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE IS INFORMATION THAT I CAN TRUST

I'LL PASS.

I'LL HAVE SOMEONE SEND A BOUQUET OF ROSES LATER.

AND I'LL POUR ALL OF MY LOVING THOUGHTS INTO IT SO THAT YOU'LL RECOVER THAT MUCH FASTER.

ODD

GOOD DAY THEN.

AH... OF COURSE.

KUROE, WOULD YOU MIND READING ME WHAT HE WROTE?

SIGH...

HERE, I'LL ERASE IT FOR YOU!

EH..?! OH, UM... IT'S NOTH-ING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

.....

I SEE... THANK YOU.

DAMN IT!!

TWEAK

MY LADY..!!

DO YOU PLAN ON NEVER USING THE POWER YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

AND SIMPLY LET EVENTS CONTROL YOU INSTEAD OF TAKING CONTROL OF SITUATIONS, KUROE?

IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN INTANGIBLE POWERS YOU CAN'T SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES?

WE BOTH KNOW IT'S A POWER THAT YOU NEED. .

WHY WON'T YOU USE IT?

.....!!

HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR SISTER WHO WAS KIDNAPPED BY ADIVUARAT KURAI

Note : Adivuarat Kurai = The eyes that see the truth

HM. LOOKING AT YOUR REACTION, IT SEEMS I WAS RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT~!!

I...

IS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ADIVUARAT KURAI POWER YOU POSSESS AND YOU'RE MERELY TRYING TO LASH OUT AT SOMETHING TO BURY YOUR ANGER, AM I RIGHT?

EVEN THE REASON YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME HUNTING DOWN INSIGNIFICANT ORPHANS

YOU CAN TRY AND FOOL YOURSELF INTO THINKING THAT YOU'VE BECOME STRONGER, BUT IN YOUR CURRENT STATE YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CATCH A SINGLE STRAND OF HAIR OFF OF "HIS" EYEBROW.

YOU'VE ONLY TRAINED IN MARTIAL ARTS FOR A FEW YEARS. HOW WILL THAT HELP YOU?

BUT IT'S TRUE.

NO, YOU'RE WRONG!!

WHILE YOU SIT THERE FROZEN IN YOUR BLIND FOOLISHNESS

YOU'LL MOST LIKELY END UP LOSING ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS PRECIOUS TO YOU.

PATHETIC.. YOU TRULY ARE NOTHING BUT A WORTHLESS PATHETIC MAN, AREN'T YOU?

I USUALLY WATCH OVER HER WHENEVER HE'S AWAY

MR. REIJI'S DAUGHTER..?

YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT MY LEG IS IN THIS CONDITION SO...

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF HER FOR ME, KUROE.

I SEE... THEN I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR REACTION WHEN YOU FIRST MEET HER~

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HAVE YOU MET HER YET..?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?

NO... I DONT I THINK SO...

OH~ IT'S NOTHING. I WAS MERELY TALKING TO MYSELF.

CLICK

WELL THEN~ I'LL LEAVE HER HIGHNESS IN YOUR HANDS.

STOP

OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I KEEP FORGETTING THAT MR. REIJI IS RICH...

UWAA...

THAT'S ONE AMAZING MANSION.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR LUGGAGE.

I'VE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF THE SITUATION, SIR.

A BUTLER ..?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MASTER KUROSE.

THE YOUNG MISS IS UPSTAIRS.

♪

A PIANO..?

♪

♪

Part 2

MISAKI..?

♪

♪

♪

DAN~

JESSICA ASKED ME TO FILL IN FOR HER FOR A WHILE...

.....

♪

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING SHE STARTED PLAYING MUCH LOUDER AND MORE SHARPLY AFTER I TALKED TO HER..?

NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, RIGHT..?

.....? HAS SHE NOT NOTICED ME YET..?

UM...

♪

FRIEND

I'M...

THIRSTY.

WELL?

I SAID...

.....!!

I'M THIRSTY.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

YOU CAN GO AND PREPARE SOMETHING FOR ME NOW.

—?!

EH—?!

EH...

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS_?

THIS... IS MR. REIJI'S DAUGHTER —?!

HERE YOU GO.

I... I DONT UNDER-STAND... WERENT YOU THIRSTY?

YOU'RE VERY SLOW AREN'T YOU?

YOU CAN DISPOSE OF THE REST.

EH?

CLANK

I EXPECT MY MILK TEA TO BE MUCH SWEETER THAN THIS OR I WON'T DRINK IT.

.....!!

DO YOU STILL NOT UNDER-STAND?

HMP~

SHE... SHE REALLY IS...

GET RID OF IT.

THAT CUP OF MILK TEA YOU POURED FOR ME IS HARDLY PALATABLE.

SHOOT... AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL KEEP SETTING THE PACE...

HMP

SHE REALLY IS "HER HIGHNESS"—!!

THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I WANTED TO SHOW YOU. WILL YOU WATCH?

UM, MISAKI...

BUT THE TRUTH IS, I PLACED A MAGIC SPELL ON IT A FEW MOMENTS AGO.

THIS SPOON... IT'S NOT SPECIAL IN ANY WAY AND IT LOOKS LIKE JUST AN AVERAGE SPOON, RIGHT?

TING

THERE... DID YOU HEAR THAT?

BECAUSE THIS IS A MAGIC SPOON, IT MADE A SLIGHTLY HIGHER PITCH SOUND THAN OTHER SPOONS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A MAGIC SPOON? HOW RIDICULOUS.

OH, IS IT—?

WITH JUST A SINGLE STIR WITH THIS MAGIC SPOON, THIS CUP OF MILK TEA WILL HAVE THE EXACT SWEETNESS THAT YOU LIKE.

DON'T BE ABSURD, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT IT IS POSSIBLE.

THERE...
TRY IT.

.....

WATCH—

STIR
STIR

HOW
IS IT?

.....!!

STARE

...HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

.....

OH, STOP IT~!

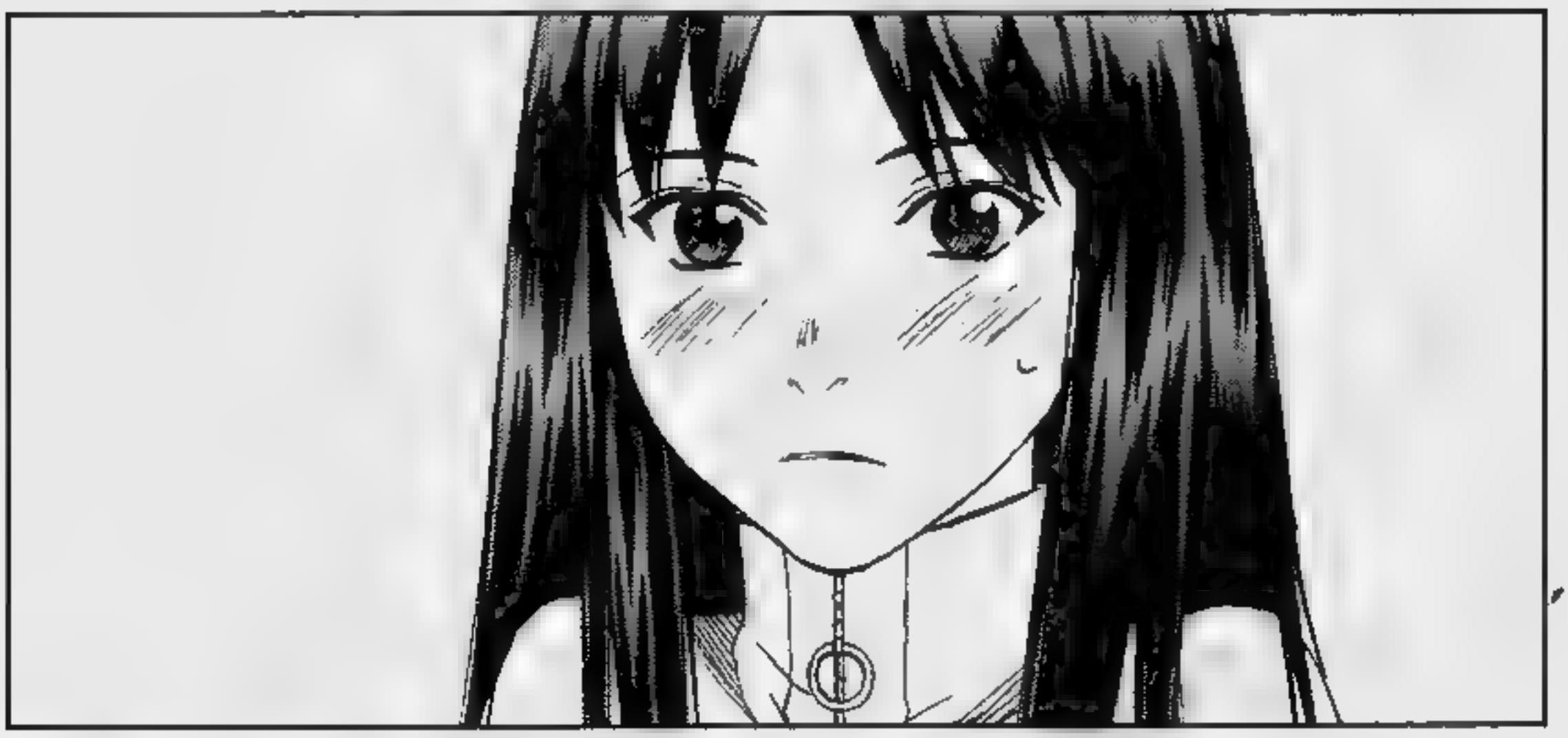
TURN

IT'S MAGIC.

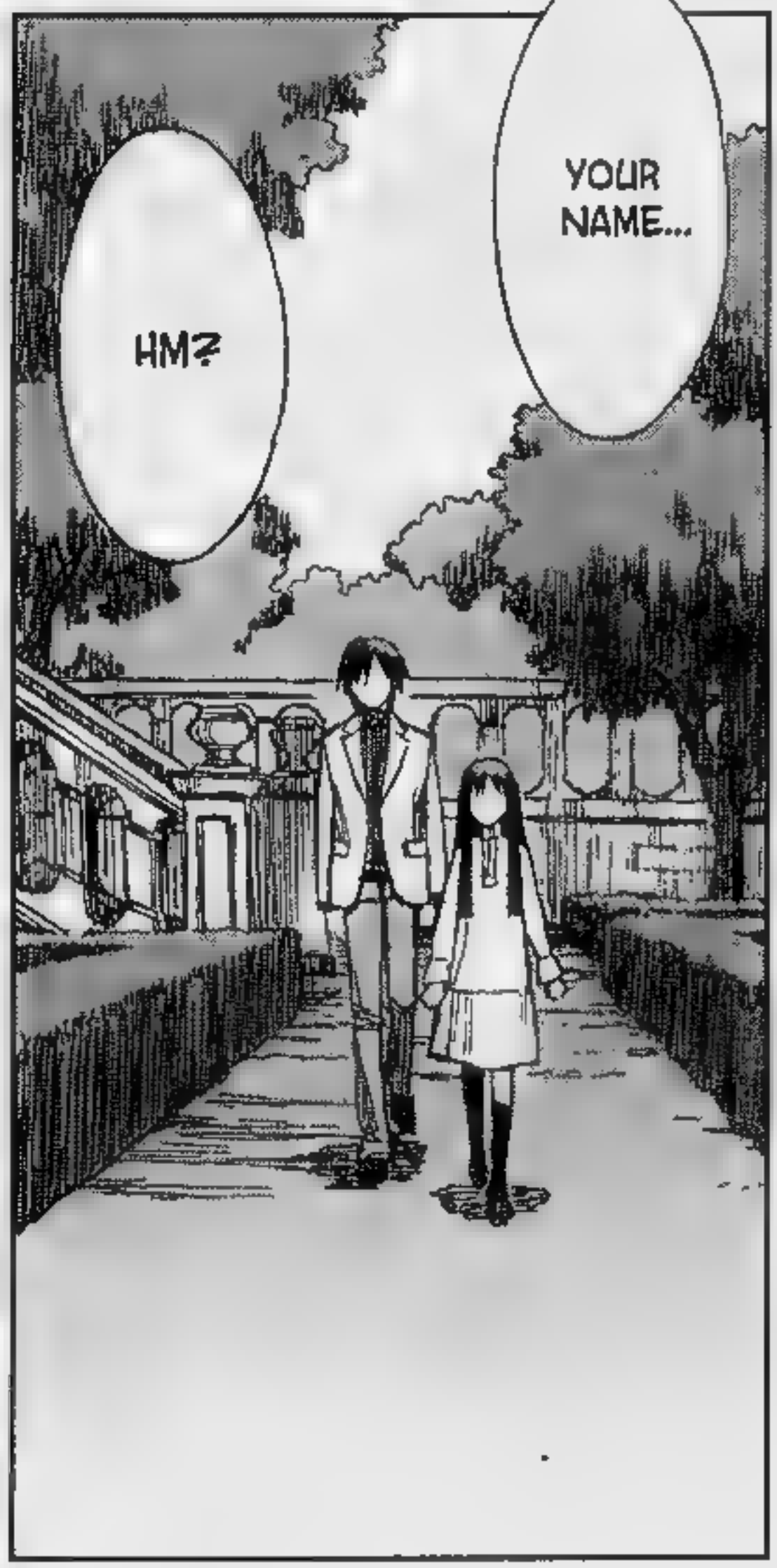
I ONCE MET A MAGICIAN AND SHE TAUGHT ME HOW TO DO MAGIC.

I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MAGIC!!



YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME YET.


HM?
YOUR NAME...

KUROE...

MY NAME IS KUROE KUROSE.

AH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT STILL... YOU CAN SAY THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS NAME THAT I'M WHO I AM TODAY.

DO YOU THINK SO AS WELL..?

?

THAT'S A STRANGE NAME... FOR A MAN, THAT NAME SOUNDS A BIT TOO FEMININE.

WHY IS THAT?

ALTHOUGH THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE ABLE TO FIND OUT FOR SURE NOW...

YOU MAY BE RIGHT...

I CAN'T IMAGINE NORMAL PARENTS GIVING THEIR CHILDREN A NAME LIKE THAT.

YOU MUST HAVE HAD STRANGE PARENTS.

WHAT AM I THINKING... WHAT AM I DOING TELLING A CHILD SOMETHING LIKE THAT..?

OH... UM, IT'S NOTHING.

.....!!

SO YOU MIGHT SAY I DON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH THEM TO ASK...

THEY'RE IN A FAR AWAY PLACE RIGHT NOW...

I SEE...

IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK AND A BIT CHILLY OUTSIDE.

WHY DON'T WE HEAD BACK INSIDE?

SHALL WE, MISAKI?

YOUR STORY WASN'T VERY INTERESTING, BUT...

AT LEAST IT HELPED PASS THE TIME.

OH... WELL, I'M GLAD I COULD BE OF SOME USE...

OH MY GOD~!!

THIS IS SUCH AN AWESOME LOOKING MANSION!!

HEY, SO...

ARE YOU SUPER RICH OR SOMETHING?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE, RIGHT?

WHO KNOWS--?

WELL...

AND I BET YOU MUST DO SOMETHING SHADY FOR A LIVING.

SLIP

YOU DON'T MIND IF I FRESHEN UP IN THE BATHROOM DO YOU?

OH, REALLY—

LEAN

I'M JUST A USED CAR SALESMAN.

I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF USED CARS YOU SELL.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST HIGH CLASS CUSTOMER...

WHAT WAS THE WORD... CANINE TOOTH?

YOU KNOW, THE SHARP TEETH RIGHT HERE...

HM?

YOU KNOW... YOUR TEETH ARE PRETTY INCREDIBLE.

YOURS ALMOST FEEL LIKE A VAMPIRE'S...

KYAAAAAAA!!

MARY..?

EH..?

I COMPLETELY FORGOT...

AH...

AAA... AAAH!!

SHRIEK ..!

AA..!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

AH..!!

A DEAD BODY..!!

THERE... THERE'S A BODY!!

IN THE BATHTUB OVER THERE..!!

THERE'S A DEAD BODY—!!

AH, THAT... MY BAD.

I COMPLETELY FORGOT TO CLEAN UP AFTER BREAKFAST.

YOU'VE BEEN KILLING TOO MUCH LATELY...

KAIRDOLF.

LANCE...

IT'S NOTHING YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.

THEY'RE THE KIND OF WOMEN THAT NO ONE CARES ABOUT EVEN IF A COUPLE OF THEM GO MISSING...

I ONLY CAME TODAY AS AN OLD FRIEND.

PARDON ME, MISS.

SO WHAT BUSINESS DOES THE HEAD OF EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA HAVE WITH ME?

WELL, HOW NICE OF YOU...

KAIRDOLF.

WON'T YOU CONSIDER COMING BACK..?

EVEN IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO FILL IN AS A REPLACE-MENT KING, DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D BE ABLE TO SWEAR MY LOYAL TO HIM?

SPARUDA CAME TO AN END ONCE HE WAS NO LONGER WITH US...

IS ADIVUARAT KURAI. HE ALONE AND NO ONE ELSE.

THE ONLY PERSON I KNEEL FOR AND ADDRESS AS "KING"...

LANCE... YOU KNOW ALREADY, DON'T YOU?

.....

IT'S PATHETIC.

WHAT? SO YOU PLAN ON CONTINUING ON LIKE THIS? IS THIS HOW YOU PLAN ON TAKING REVENGE FOR THE WAY YOU WERE WOUNDED?

PATHETIC... YOU SAY?

YOU STILL DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND... WHETHER YOU ACCEPT IT OR NOT, WE'RE DESCENDED BEINGS...

YOU TRY TO BLEND IN AMONGST HUMANS AND TRY TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER WITH THEM... FOR WHAT? TO CAUSE LESS FRICTION? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT YOU SPARUDA VAMPIRES HAVE SURE BECOME ARROGANT LATELY.

.....

WE CAN'T CONTINUE THIS SHEEP AND WOLF RELATIONSHIP FOREVER. THERE WILL COME A TIME...

IF HUMANS CHANGE, WE MUST CHANGE AS WELL.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE CAN'T GO AGAINST THE FLOW OF TIME...

OH, BY THE WAY...

IF YOU GO TO LONDON, YOU MAY COME ACROSS AND BE ABLE TO FIGHT WITH SINISTRE FEMME...

SHE'S A FORMIDABLE ENEMY... JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE.

Note : Sinistre Femme = The woman with the forbidden name

GOOD... IN THAT CASE

I WON'T MIND RUNNING A SMALL ERRAND FOR THE "KING".

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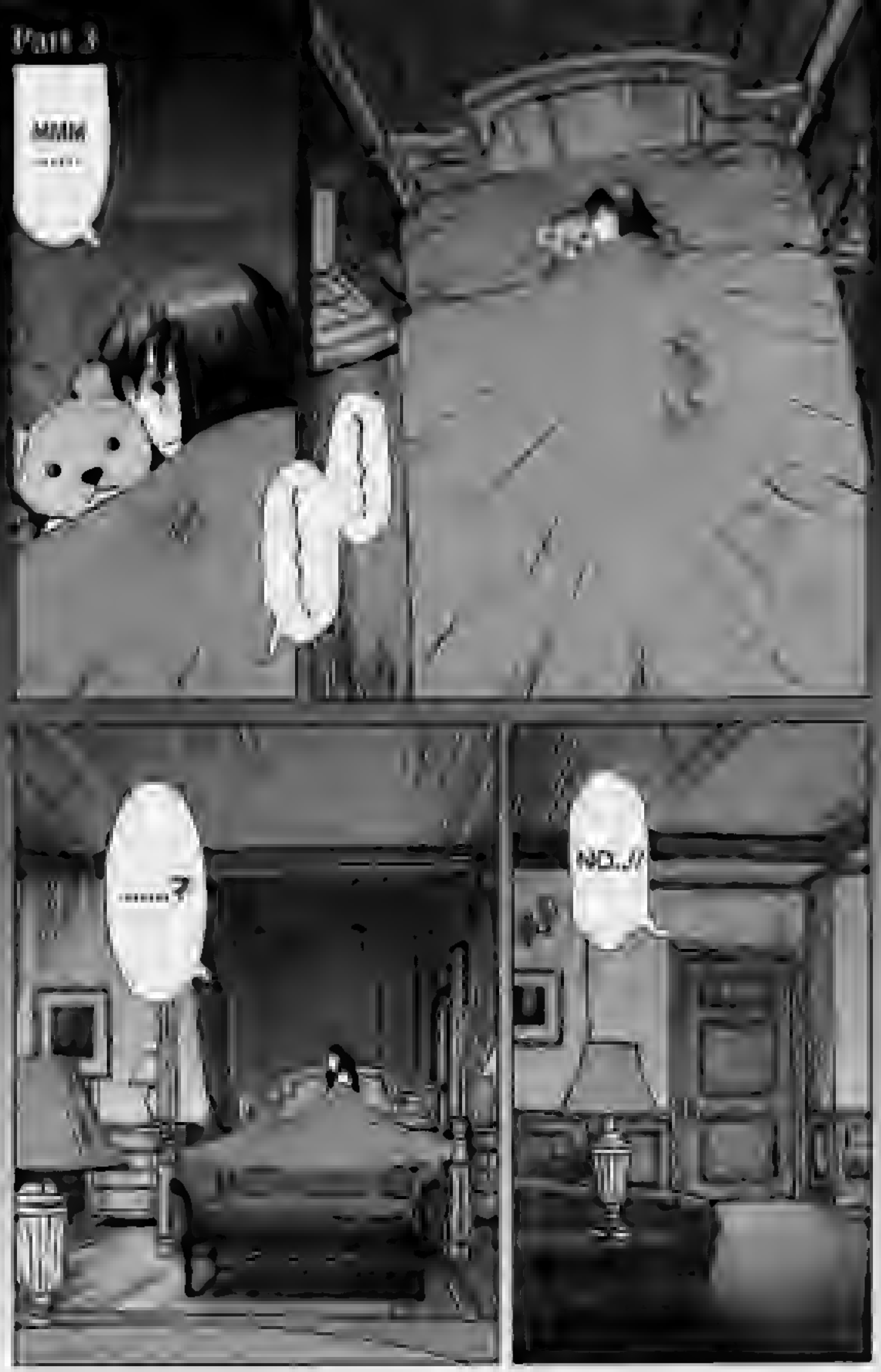

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ALL YOU DO NOW IS TRY TO RUN FROM YOUR PAST AND BURY YOUR WOUNDS, DISTRACTING YOURSELF BY HUNTING DEFILED PARASITES. HOW PATHETIC OF YOU

NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE...

YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR SISTER A LONG TIME AGO, HAVEN'T YOU?

YES, IT IS TRUE.

NO, YOU'RE WRONG!!

JUMP

AH...

UUU...

HAAA

HAAA

HAAA

I SEE YOU'RE UP RATHER EARLY...

MISAKI ..?!

.....

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THERE WAS ANYONE ELSE HERE LAST NIGHT... IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

BY THE WAY...

BUT THERE'S ALMOST ALWAYS SOMEONE STAYING IN THE GUEST ROOM.

EVERYONE THAT WORKS HERE COMMUTES AND THEY GO HOME AT THE END OF EACH DAY.

WELL, I MEAN... YOU LIVE HERE IN THIS LARGE MANSION BY YOURSELF, SO DON'T YOU GET LONELY..?

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S A BIT LONELY HERE...

I SEE...

RE... REALLY?

WHENEVER MY FATHER IS AWAY, EITHER JESSIE OR SOMEBODY ELSE ALMOST ALWAYS STOPS BY AND STAYS OVER.

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, I DO END UP BEING ALONE BUT IT'S NEVER BOTHERED ME BEFORE.

NO, NOT REALLY.

BY THE WAY... ARE THOSE THE ONLY CLOTHES YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU?

WELL... SEEING HOW STRONG WILLED SHE IS, I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE SHE WOULDN'T FEEL LONELY...

OH—?

UM, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE CLOTHES..?

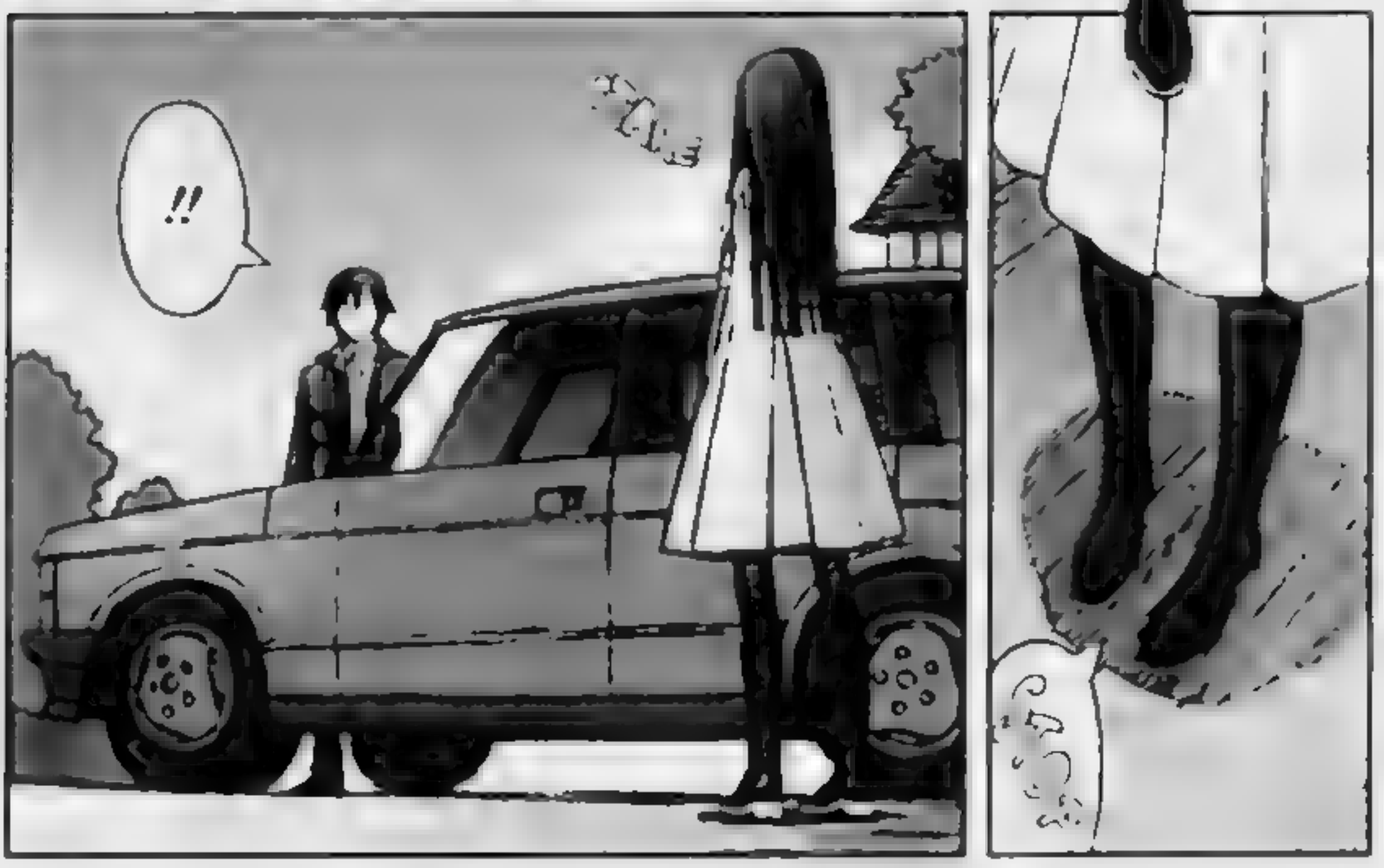
IT... IT IS...

HUH?

WE'RE GOING OUT...

RUSTLE

PLEASE GO AND FETCH THE CAR.



AFTER YOU, MISS.

CLASP

CLICK

WHERE TO, MISS?

AND SO...

TO THE TAILOR'S.

TAILOR?

GOOD AFTERNOON, EDDY.

HE'S BOTH MY CHAUFFEUR AND BODY-GUARD.

JESSIE IS OFF TODAY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YOUNG LADY WHO'S USUALLY WITH YOU?

I SEE YOU'RE BEING ESCORTED BY A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN TODAY.

WELL, NOW— IF IT ISN'T MINATO'S LITTLE GIRL— IT'S BEEN A WHILE MISS.

WHAT?!

I STOPPED BY TODAY TO HAVE YOU TAILOR A SUIT FOR HIM.

REGARDLESS OF HOW HE MAY LOOK, HE'S A GREAT TAILOR SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

THAT'S RIGHT YOUNG MAN, MY HANDIWORK ISN'T BAD AT ALL IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

WAIT... BUT, I DON'T NEED A SUIT...

IT'S ALL RIGHT DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONEY, I'LL BE PAYING FOR IT.

THAT'S OKAY. I'LL CHOOSE FOR YOU KUROE.

WELL... UM, I'VE NEVER HAD A SUIT FITTED FOR ME BEFORE SO...

LET'S SEE NOW. WHAT MATERIAL WOULD YOU LIKE FOR ME TO USE?

AAA... IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALREADY OUT OF MY HANDS...

IN THAT CASE, WILL THIS DO?

YES... HE'S A BIT GLOOMY AND HE'S RATHER PLAIN, SO I THINK SOMETHING ELEGANT AND REFINING WOULD BE NICE.

LET ME KNOW ONCE YOU'RE DONE GETTING MEASURED.

I'LL BE WAITING DOWNSTAIRS.

NO, OF COURSE I CAN HAVE IT READY BY NEXT WEEK, BECAUSE I'M ONE OF THE BEST AFTER ALL.

DID YOU NEED MORE TIME?

NOW THEN... PLEASE HAVE IT READY BY NEXT WEEK.

NEXT WEEK? ISN'T THAT A BIT RUSHED?

IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'M SORRY I CAN'T GET YOU ANYTHING IN THE MEANWHILE. MY WIFE IS OUT AT THE MOMENT.

I ONLY FIRST MET HER THE OTHER DAY.

NO... UM, ACTUALLY ...

HAVE YOU KNOWN THE YOUNG LADY FOR VERY LONG?

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S SPIRITED AS USUAL.

DO YOU NORMALLY HANDLE MR. REIJI'S CLOTHES AS WELL, MR. EDDY?

ALTHOUGH I'D SAY IT'S BEEN ALMOST 20 YEARS NOW...

THAT'S RIGHT. AND NOT ONLY HIS USUAL ATTIRE, I MADE SOME OF HIS PERFORMANCE COSTUMES AS WELL.

MR. REIJI HAS BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR ME FOR A WHILE NOW SO...

AH... SO IT'S BECAUSE OF REIJI.

IN THAT CASE, THAT TIRED FEEL ABOUT YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF MISAKI.

I SEE... SO YOU'VE ONLY RECENTLY MET THE YOUNG LADY....

I DON'T UNDER-STAND... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'VE HAD A CLOUDED FACE EVER SINCE YOU WALKED INTO THIS STORE.

IT'S AS IF YOU'VE LOST ALL CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AND YOU'RE LOST, NOT KNOWING WHERE TO GO...

EVEN THE EXPRESSION A PERSON HAS WHEN LOOKING AT THEMSELVES IN THE MIRROR SAYS A LOT.

THE FEELING I'M GETTING FROM YOU RIGHT NOW IS THAT SOMEHOW, YOU'RE REFUSING TO FACE YOURSELF.

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT THAT PERSON AND WHAT HE'S THINKING.

WHEN YOU'VE WORKED LONG ENOUGH IN THIS PROFESSION, JUST BY TAKING SOMEONE'S MEASUREMENTS

YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A PERSON BY THEIR MOOD, APPEARANCE, AND HOW THEY CARRY THEMSELVES.

.....

I SEE...

.....

THEY'LL FEEL THAT THE CLOTHES THAT PERSON TAILORS FOR THEM WILL SUIT THEM PERFECTLY.

IF YOU ACT LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT A CUSTOMER

DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT I SAID. IT'S MERELY A TRICK I USE.

EH..?

.....

I CAN'T HELP FEELING... THAT EVERYTHING YOU SAID IS TRUE.

BUT...

VROOM

WHAT'S UP?

Click

BESIDES HIM THERE'S JUST AN OLD MAN THAT OWNS THAT STORE.

THERE'S A GUY WATCHING OVER HER RIGHT NOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S JUST A HUMAN. HE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

NO SWEAT.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS NAB ONE LITTLE KID.

ALRIGHT.

PARK US IN THE BACK SO I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS WITHOUT ATTRACTING ANY ATTENTION.

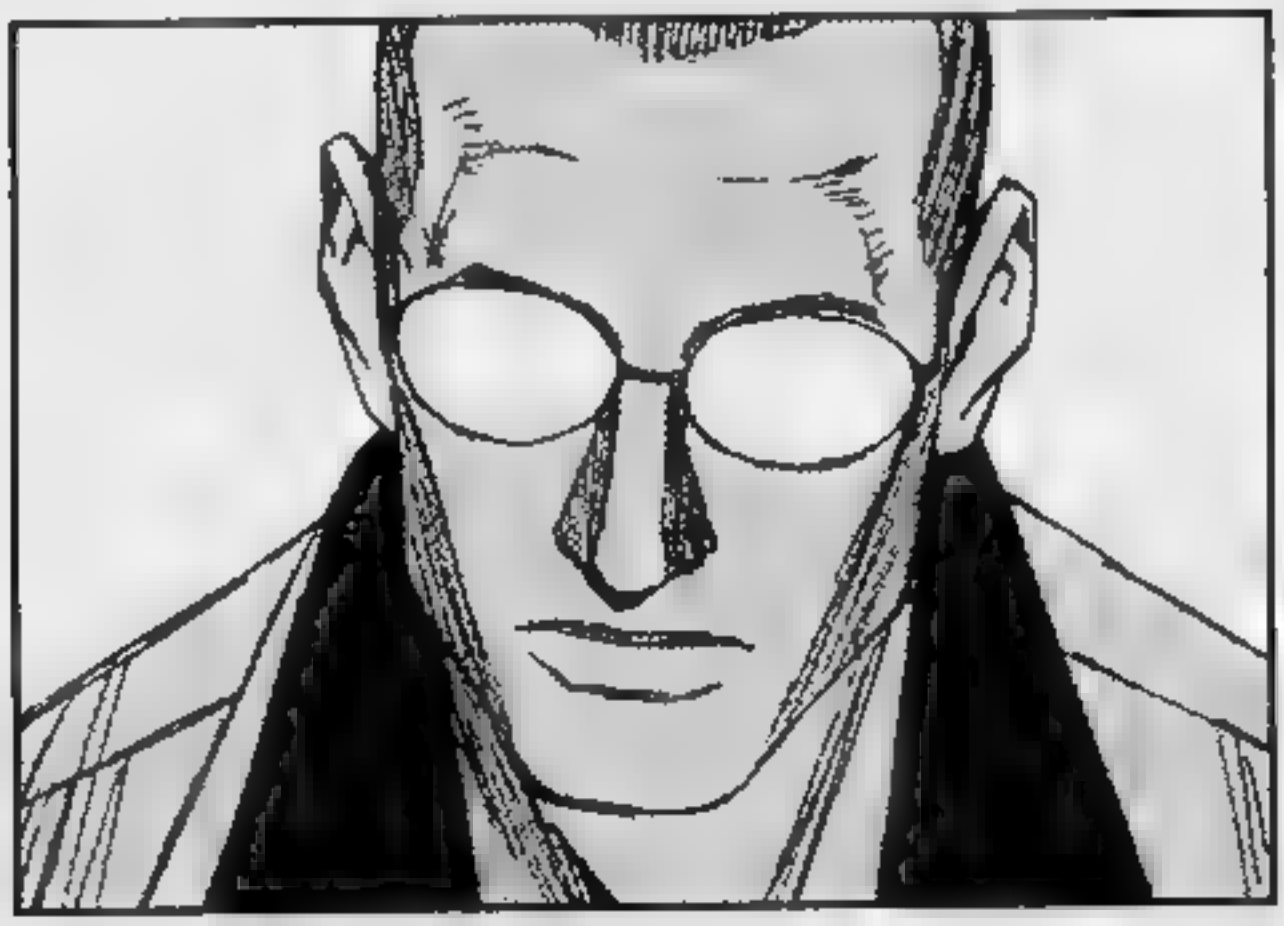
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

YAWN

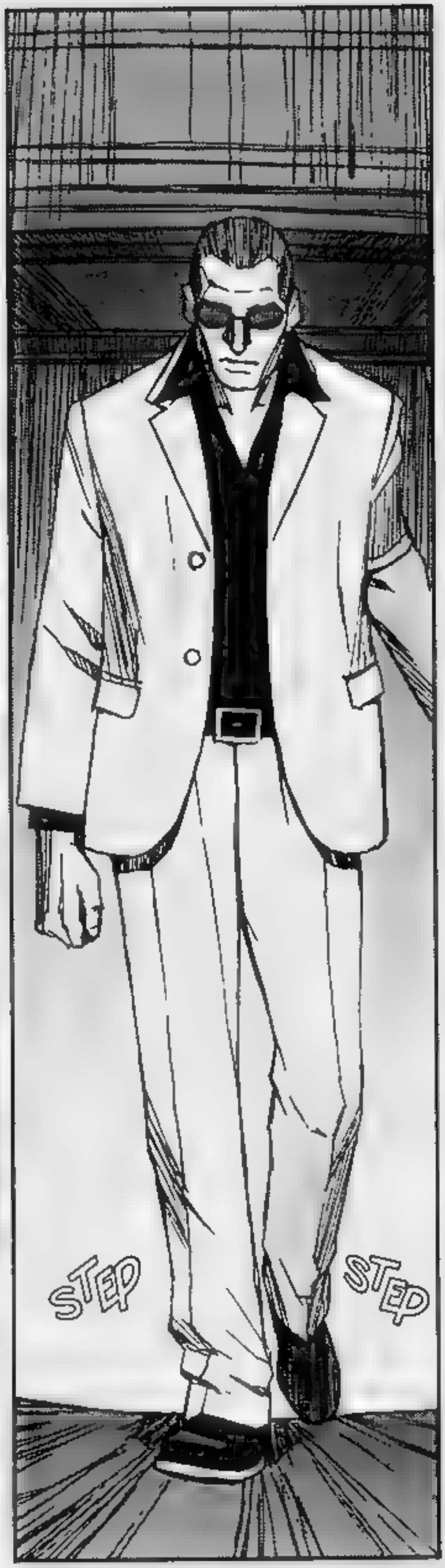
CLICK

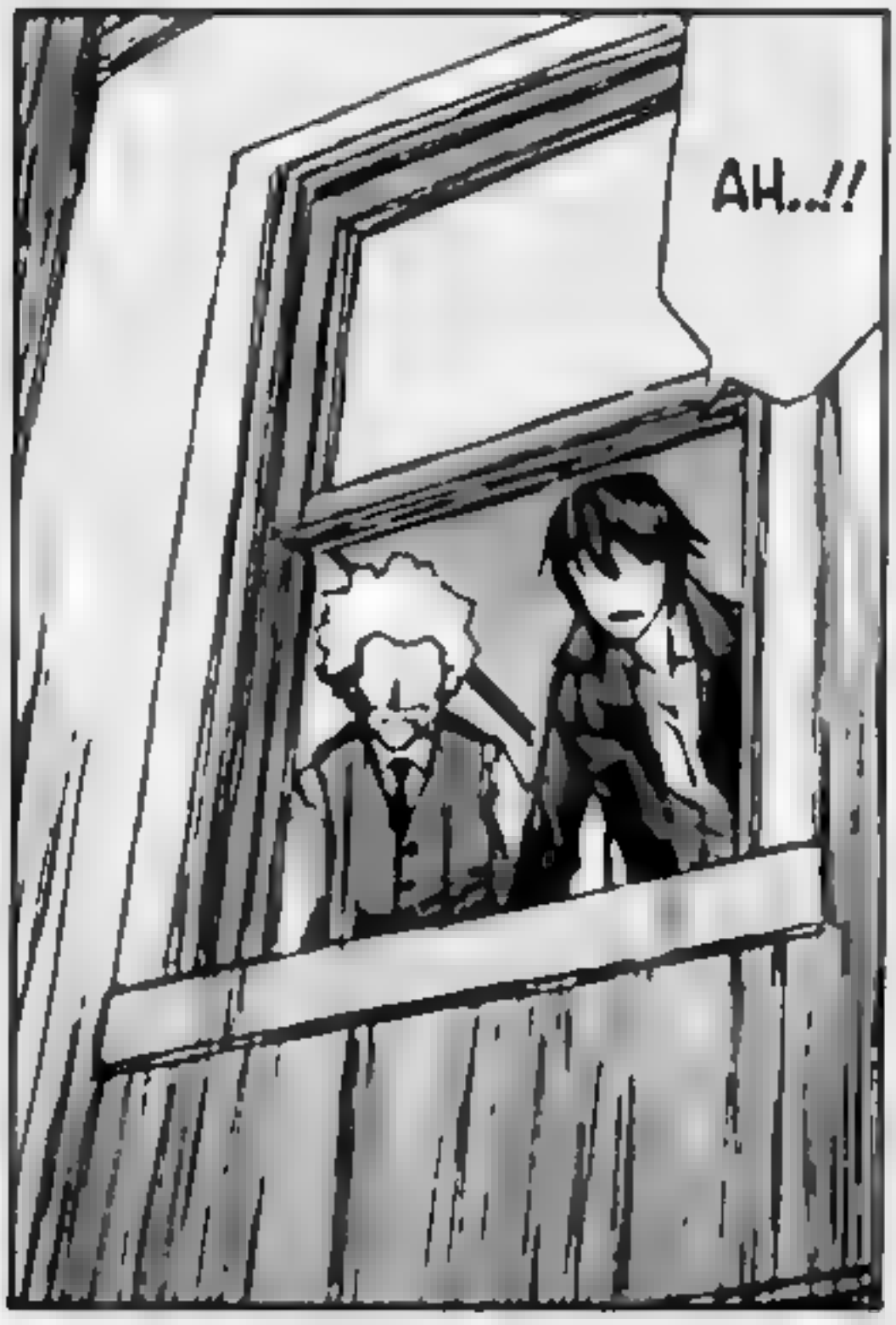
IT'S ALREADY COMING UP NEXT WEEK...

I WONDER IF FATHER... WILL BE BACK BY THEN...



NOW THEN, THERE'S JUST THE HEM LEFT TO FIGURE OUT...
KYAA!!


STEP
STEP


AH..!!

LET GO OF ME..!!

THE YOUNG LADY..?!

THUNK!

?!

CRACK

MISAKI

.....!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU STAND?

VROOM

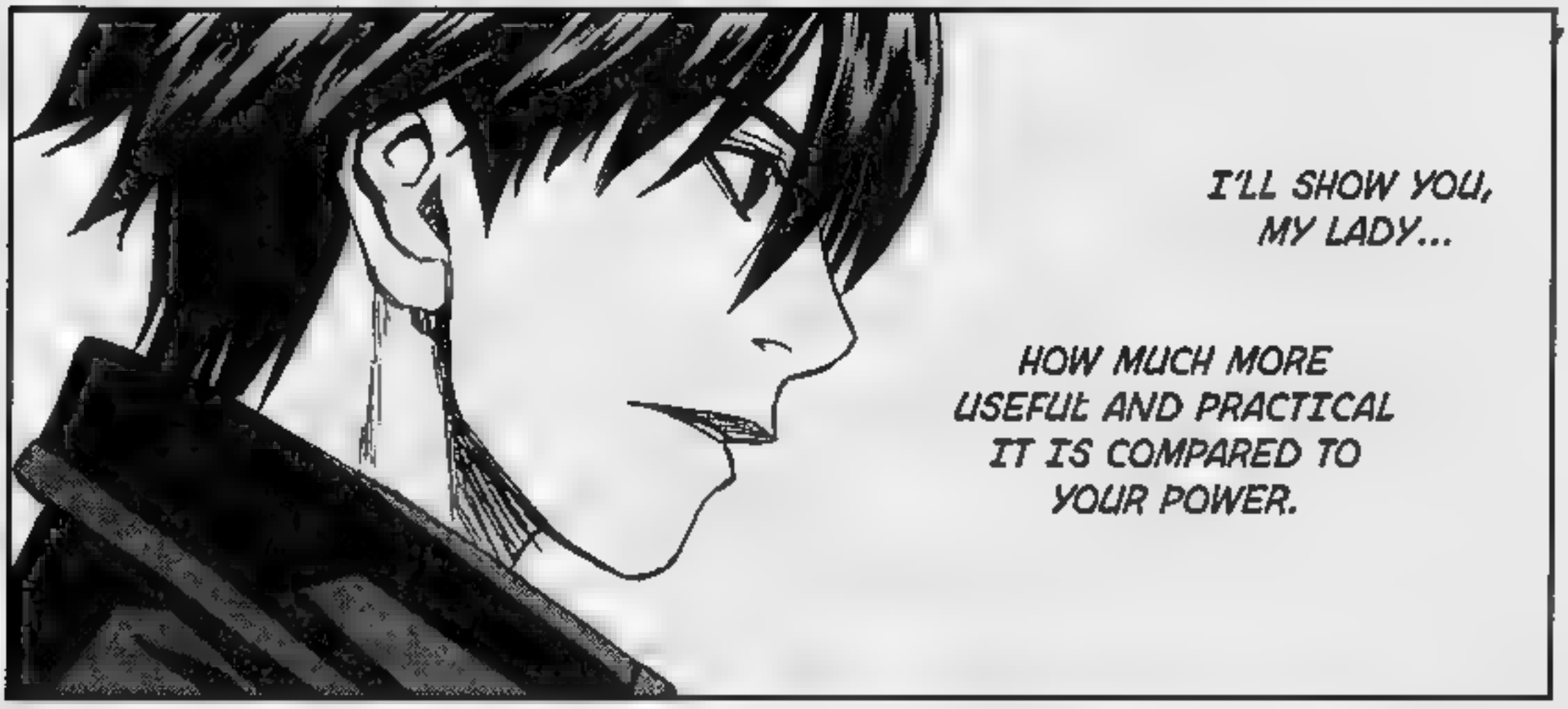
GO INSIDE.

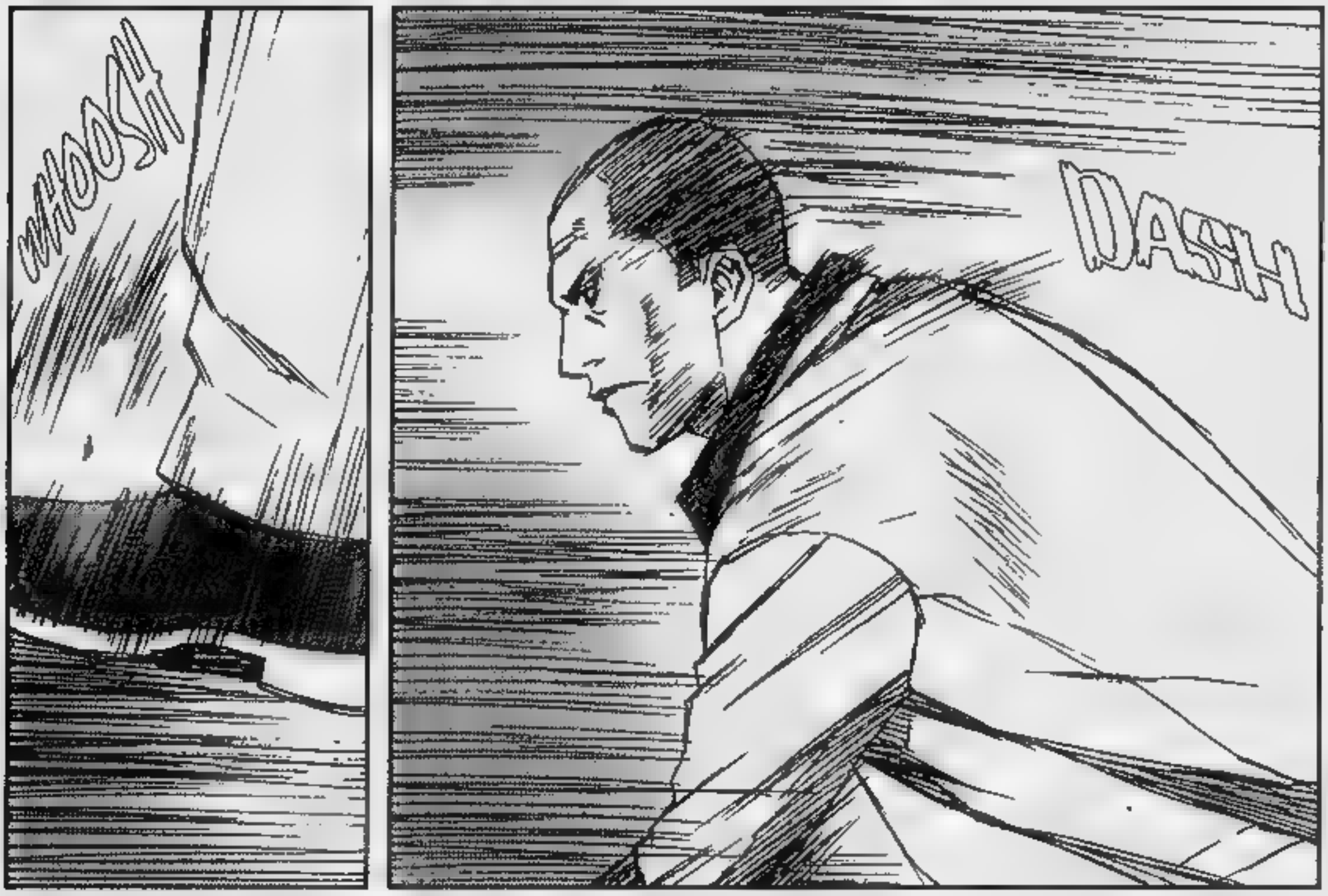
TURN

RENFIELDS...

Part 4

YOU'VE ONLY TRAINED IN MARTIAL ARTS FOR A FEW YEARS. HOW WILL THAT HELP YOU?

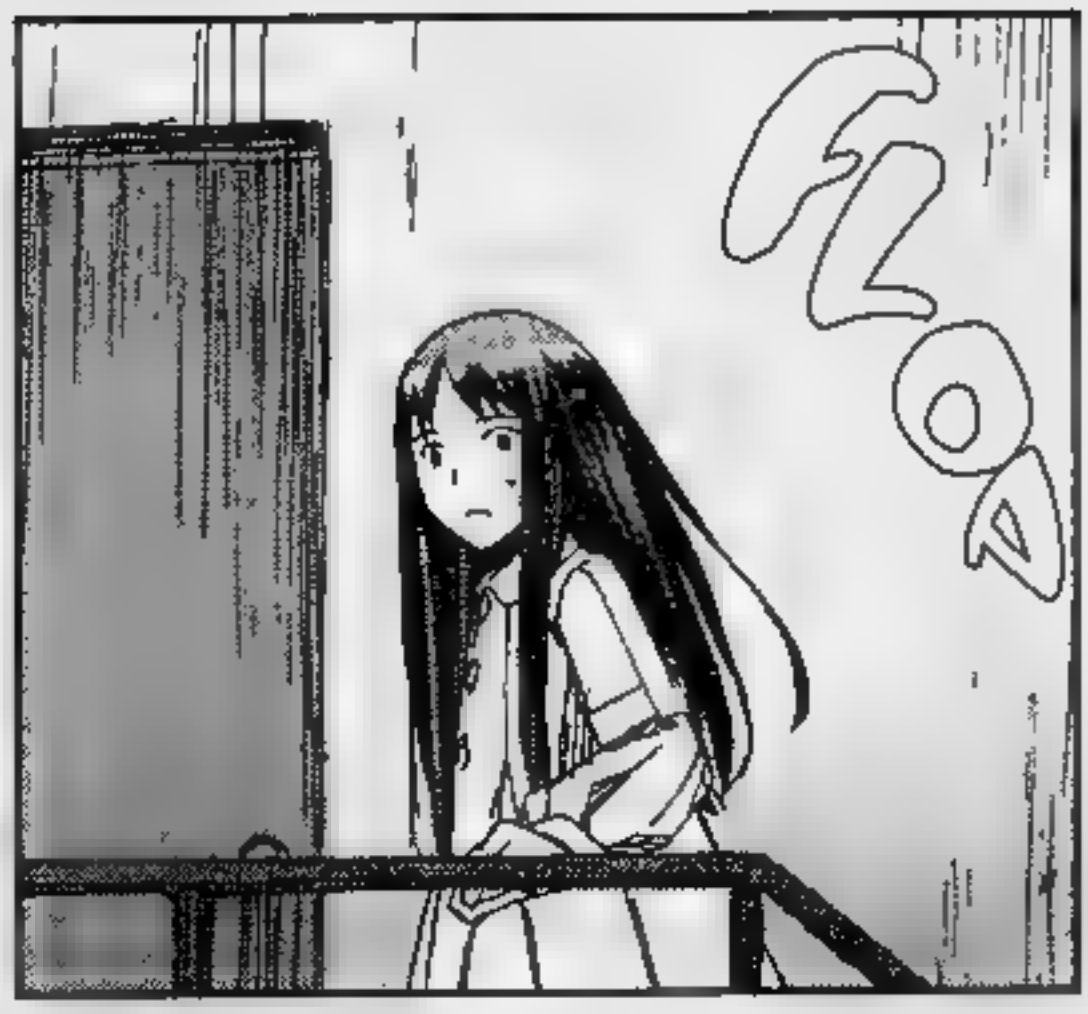

I'LL SHOW YOU, MY LADY...
HOW MUCH MORE USEFUL AND PRACTICAL IT IS COMPARED TO YOUR POWER.


WHOOSH
DASH

WASP
THUD

CRACK

.....!!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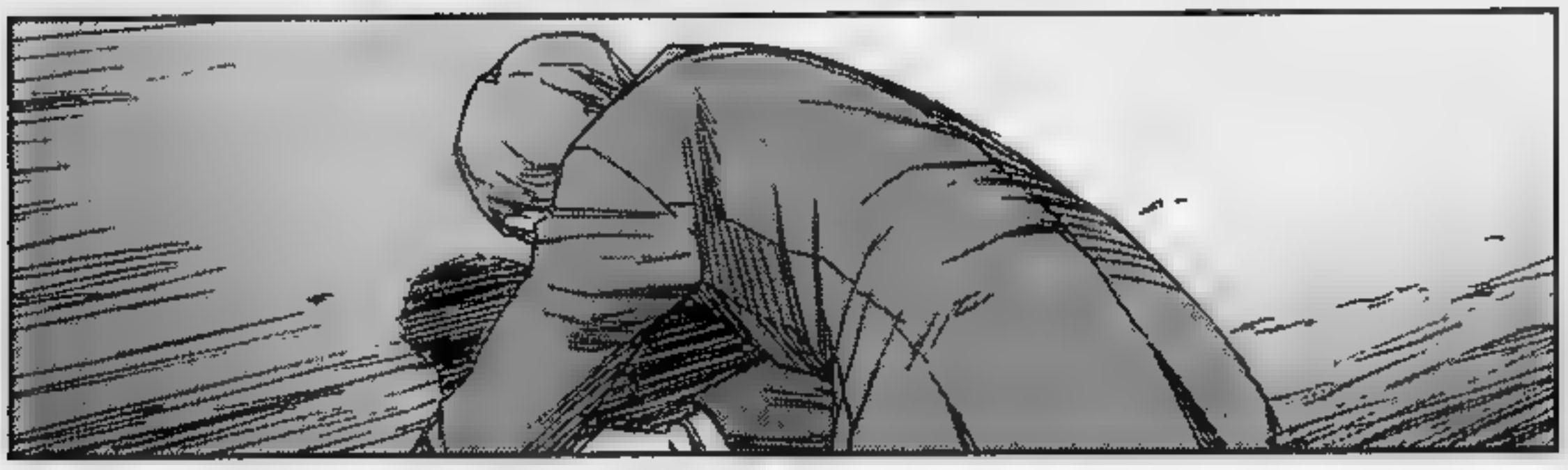


THOSE ARE YOUR ONLY CHOICES.

OR YOU CAN CONTINUE THIS POINT-LESS FIGHT AND DIE.

YOU CAN EITHER TELL ME YOUR BLOOD PARENT'S NAME AND LEAVE QUIETLY...

I ADVISE YOU TO GIVE UP .. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ME.

COME INSIDE, QUICKLY!

AH... ALRIGHT.

MISS!!

!!

KUROE

!!

SMACK

SMASH

GET IN!!

!!

KYRUM

AH..!!

STOP ..!!

GRAB

.....

BANG!

SCREECH

.....

IS THAT RIGHT, RENFIELDS ...

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY VAMPIRES LEFT IN THAT AREA THAT WOULD TRY TO GO AFTER MR. REIJI AGAIN...

THAT'S OKAY. WITH MISAKI THERE TO WATCH OVER, THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE YOU COULD HAVE DONE.

NO, I'M SORRY. THEY GOT AWAY...

IN ANY CASE, YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND OUT WHO THEIR BLOOD PARENT IS, RIGHT?

THANKS AGAIN.

I UNDERSTAND THEN. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT.

STILL, SHE'S A VERY STRONG CHILD SO I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

SHE WASN'T HURT BUT I THINK SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT SHOCKED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

AND SO, HOW IS MISAKI DOING?

REALLY... IS THAT SO?

SHE MAY APPEAR TO BE A VERY STRONG WILLED GIRL BUT IT'S ALL MERELY AN ACT THAT SHE'S DESPERATELY TRYING TO KEEP FROM CRUMBLING. AND THE WAY SHE SOMETIMES ACTS SELF-CENTERED IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF HOW SHE EXPRESSES HER LONELINESS.

NO CHILD IS THAT STRONG.

YOU CAN BE SO SLOW SOME-TIMES, KUROE ...

YES.

EH?

.....

THERE MAY BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING THERE.

BUT THE ONLY FAMILY SHE REALLY HAS IS HER FATHER.

KUROE...

YES?

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MISAKI.

OF COURSE.

I DON'T THINK ANY VAMPIRES WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THAT MANSION, BUT JUST IN CASE, DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

I'LL CONTACT YOU ONCE I FIND OUT SOMETHING.

I'M GLAD I LEFT HER IN YOUR CARE.

GOOD NIGHT, JESSIE.

GOOD NIGHT, KUROE.

.....

MISAKI, MAY I COME IN?

MISAKI..?

.....WHERE IS MY FATHER?

MR. REIJI IS STILL...

UM... ABOUT THAT...

.....!!

MY FATHER... ISN'T COMING HOME?

EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO ME TODAY...

.....

WHY?

THERE MAY BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING THERE. BUT THE ONLY FAMILY SHE REALLY HAS IS HER FATHER.

MY FATHER STILL ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT ME?

EVEN AFTER GOING THROUGH... SOMETHING AS SCARY AS THAT

SHE ONLY HAS HER FATHER TO LEAN ON...

ALWAYS BEING ALONE IN THIS LARGE MANSION

HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY FEEL SECURE?

AFTER ALL, SHE'S STILL JUST A CHILD

THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULDN'T FEEL LONELY

MY FATHER...

HE ALWAYS LEAVES ME BEHIND...

I... I DON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM...

MR. REIJI CARES A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU.

THA... THAT'S NOT TRUE.

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME!!

THEN WHY DOESN'T HE COME HOME?!

WHY?!

THAT... THAT'S BECAUSE...

BECAUSE...

I'M HERE, AND I'M WAY STRONGER AND MUCH MORE RELIABLE THAN HE IS.

BUT THERE IS... RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF YOU.

NO ONE IS STRONGER THAN MY FATHER.

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DIDN'T I DEFEAT THOSE BAD MEN WHO TRIED TO KIDNAP YOU IN JUST AN INSTANT?

BECAUSE AFTER ALL, HE'S THE STRONGEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.

IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE A BIT STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BE STRONGER THAN MY FATHER.

THAT'S...

I'M THE STRONGEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.

NO, NO—

BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE MAN IS WATCHING OVER YOU.

THAT'S WHY MR. REIJI CAN RELAX AND NOT BE WORRIED...

MY FATHER IS THE STRONGEST!!

YOU'RE... YOU'RE WRONG!!

WELL, UNTIL A MINUTE AGO YOU WERE SO MAD AT MR. REIJI

BUT IN THE END, YOU'RE ON HIS SIDE AFTER ALL.

WHA... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

CHUCKLE

.....!!

THA...

THAT'S BECAUSE ...

FROM NOW ON...

....OH, FORGET IT.

.....

I'LL BE YOUR KNIGHT AND YOURS ALONE.

NO MATTER WHEN OR WHERE... I'LL COME TO YOUR AID.

WHENEVER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN TROUBLE...

.....

I'LL BE THE BEST KNIGHT IN THE WORLD.

I'LL OBEY ANY ORDER YOU GIVE AND FACE ANY CHALLENGE YOU HAVE FOR ME.

I SWEAR MY LOYALTY AND ALLEGIANCE TO YOU.

WILL YOU REALLY OBEY ANY ORDER?

YES.

WELL THEN...

.....

WAIT, UM... THAT'S A BIT...

"SIT!"

SILENCE SAYS IT WELL.

FOR A LONDON NIGHT SARCASTICALLY IN WEST...

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

Part 3

KUROE.

THE MAN WHO INTERFERED WHEN WE TRIED TO GET THE GIRL...

I'M CERTAIN THAT'S WHAT SHE CALLED HIM, SIR.

THE MAGICIAN KUROE, WAS IT..?

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN THE TASK WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO HANDLE...

AND IF IT WAS KUROE, THEN CERTAINLY NO ONE WILL BLAME YOU FOR RUNNING AWAY.

SHLAK

.....!!

SLIDE

THUMP

IT IT REALLY WAS THE REAL SLIDE

WHAT IS

WHAT DOES I THINK I WAS ?
TO THINK THAT I ACTUALLY EXPECTED MORE SENSITIVITY TO BE OF ANY USE

THUMP
AND WHAT WOULD THIS BE?
.....
THIS MUCH?
IT'S THE LIST OF VAMPIRES YOU REQUESTED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

YES, YES, I KNOW.

NOW, NOW, THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, JESSIE~

AFTER ALL, OUR DIVISION IS ALWAYS SHORT-HANDED LIKE I SAID BEFORE AND...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME WAIT SEVERAL DAYS JUST FOR A PILE OF UNORGANIZED REPORTS.

AT THE VERY LEAST, I WAS EXPECTING, YOU TO COMPILE THEM INTO SOME KIND OF DIGITAL FILE.

OH? WILL YOU NOT BE HELPING ME?

ALL RIGHT THEN, ENJOY~

BUT IF YOU'RE BUSY.... I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

I SEE... AND HERE I WAS HOPING TO DO SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU MY APPRECIATION...

SIGH~

REGARDLESS OF HOW THINGS MAY APPEAR, I'M ACTUALLY QUITE A BUSY MAN.

.....

FOR SOMEONE WHO SAYS HE HARDLY EVER WEARS ONE, YOU LOOK VERY GOOD IN A SUIT.

DO... DO YOU REALLY THINK SO MR. EDDIE?

YOU LOOK QUITE HANDSOME.

BECAUSE OF THE RECENT EXCITEMENT I'VE HAD TO KEEP HER INDOORS AT THE MANSION, BUT BESIDES THAT SHE'S ALREADY BACK TO HER USUAL SELF.

SO, HOW IS THE YOUNG MISS DOING?

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

EH?

SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO? WEAR IT HOME LIKE THAT?

.....

VROOM

A SUIT?

YES... I THINK I WILL.

SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NEXT WEEK AND IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE WANTED IT MADE IN A HURRY... IS SOMETHING HAPPENING NEXT WEEK?

YES... SHE SUDDENLY WANTED TO HAVE ONE MADE FOR ME.

AH... IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, I THINK IT'S HER BIRTHDAY.

NEXT WEEK..?

HER BIRTH-DAY..?

DO... DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? I SOMEHOW DOUBT THAT...

HU HU... HAVING BOUGHT YOU A SUIT AND ALL, I'D SAY YOU'VE BEEN INVITED. I HAVE TO SAY, IT DIDN'T TAKE YOU VERY LONG FOR HER HIGHNESS TO LIKE YOU.

TOMORROW... IS IT?

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO PICK UP A CAKE AND A PRESENT.

SIGH—

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANY OF THESE VAMPIRES ARE THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

NOW THEN, GETTING BACK TO THE WHOLE APPRECIATION THING...

BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO FOR NOW. SINCE THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR HASN'T SHOWN ANY ACTIVITY SINCE THE ATTACK, WE'LL HAVE TO SIT BY AND WATCH FOR ANYTHING IN THE MEANWHILE.

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP YET...

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP.

WELL, NO... IT'S JUST ..... NEVER MIND.

WHY? WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WERE EXPECTING?

IS THAT IT..?

THANK YOU, ALLEN. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU HELPING OUT.

HM? OH, THAT...

HE'S IN EUROPE RIGHT NOW OUTSIDE OF ENGLAND, STUCK ON A VAMPIRE RELATED CASE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHERE'S MINATO..? SHOULDN'T HE BE THE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT ALL THIS?

HM?

STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT KEEPS CATCHING MY ATTENTION...

ALLEN, THIS MAN'S PHOTOS... ARE THESE HARD TO MAKE OUT PHOTOS THE ONLY ONES YOU HAVE OF HIM?

THEN WHY IS HE ON THE VAMPIRE LIST?

WERE RANDOM BIZARRE HOMICIDES NORMALLY UNDER YOUR JURISDICTION?

WE FOUND TWO BODIES YESTERDAY THAT WERE MISSING HEADS AND HE'S JUST SOME SUSPICIOUS LOOKING GUY TAKEN BY A CAMERA CLOSE TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.

AH, THAT ONE. IT WAS TAKEN FROM A SECURITY CAMERA.

WHAT?

REN-FIELDS..?! HE MUST BE THE ONE THEN~!

WELL, THE THING IS, THOSE HEADLESS CORPSES TURNED OUT TO BE RENFIELDS.

.....

WAIT, DON'T TELL ME HE'S..!!

KUROE.

DANG IT...

CLICK

KUROE, ARE YOU HERE?

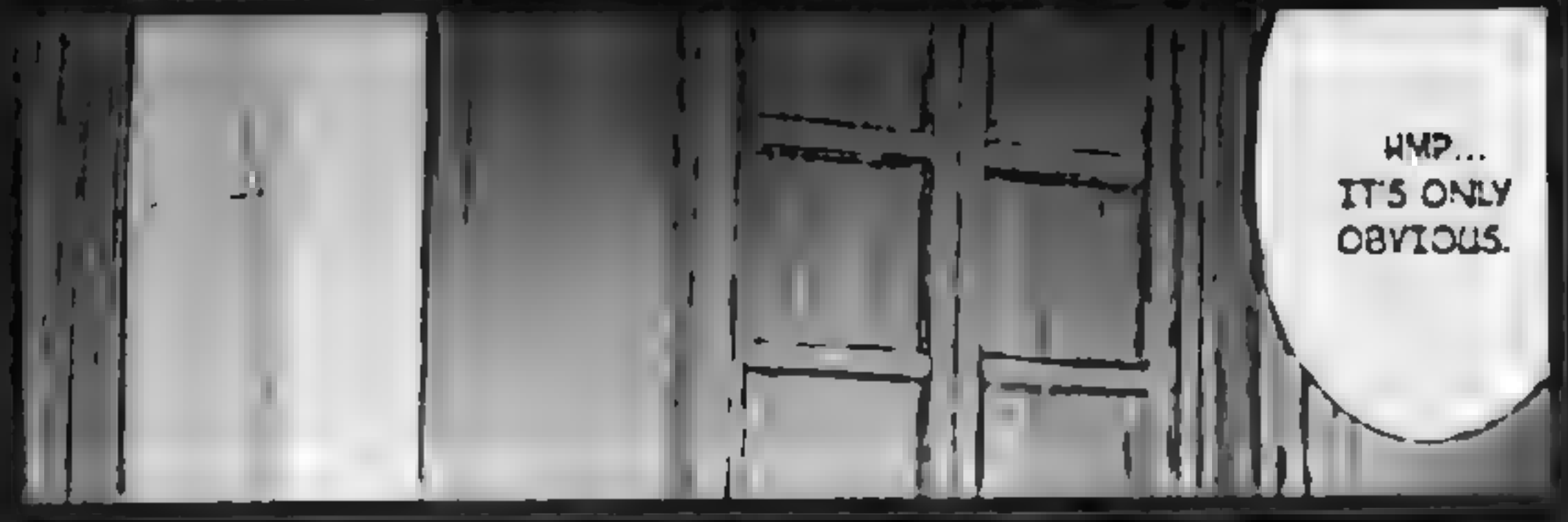
I GUESS HE'S NOT BACK YET.

HONESTLY— AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTERTAIN ME

TO HELP GET RID OF THIS BOREDOM.

RUSTLE

PZZT!!


HMP...
IT'S ONLY OBVIOUS.

IT WOULD SEEM UNINVITED GUESTS AREN'T ALLOWED IN.
THIS IS WHERE HIS PRECIOUS DAUGHTER LIVES.

IS THERE SOME-THING ABOUT THAT MAN IN THE PHOTO..?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND, WHY THE RUSH?

DAMN IT.!! I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THE MANSION OR KUROE..!!

BEEP~

BEEP~

I'M CERTAIN NOW, IT'S HIM!!

KAIRDOLF ..!!

HE'S A FORMER MEMBER NOW, BUT HE USED TO BE IN THE TOP CIRCLES OF SPARUDA!!

ALL OF THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TRAP HE PLANNED FROM THE BEGINNING..!!

BUT TO THINK THAT HE WOULD APPEAR WITH THIS TIMING WHILE MR. REIJI WAS AWAY...

HE'S SOMEONE MR. REIJI HAS FOUGHT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS!!

I GUESS I ENDED UP BEING A BIT LATE...

.....!!

CHILL

HSOOM

DASH

RUSTLE

KANG

BANG

BANG

!!

YOU MUST BE THE VANATOARE ACTING AS HER BODYGUARD...

НЕ...!!
НЕЗ ЗЧ
ЗЛШИТЕНИ

.....?

KA-BOOM

SHOOMP

CRASH

THIS MUST BE THE RESULT OF CHANGING TIMES AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME...

NOWADAYS, YOU VANATOARE DEPEND ON THOSE TOYS YOU CALL GUNS, AND IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU CAN'T EVEN USE A SINGLE BIT OF MAGIC.

IT SEEMS THE LEVEL OF VANATOARES HAS DROPPED QUITE A BIT.

IF YOU DON'T SHOW A LITTLE MORE SPEED, MY HAND MAY SLIP AND I MAY ACCIDENTALLY END UP KILLING YOU

BUT OF COURSE, I'M AN EXCEPTION

GOOD LUCK SHOWING UP ON TIME

.....!!

.....?!

SO SHE MUST BE "HIS" DAUGHTER...

.....!!

MISAKI..!!

GASP.!

STOMP

GOOD EVENING, LITTLE GIRL.

.....!!

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR STOPPING BY AT THIS LATE HOUR.

BUT I CAN'T COME INSIDE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF A SLIGHT PROBLEM.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY TO SAY HI

YOU SEE, I'M AN OLD FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S.

DON'T DO ANYTHING HE SAYS!!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!!

IN OTHER WORDS... SO THAT I CAN COME IN...

NOW, NOW, CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TALKING TO THE YOUNG LADY?

SMASH

I NEED YOU TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY.

.....?

HE CAN'T COME INSIDE UNLESS YOU GIVE HIM PERMIS-SION!!

DON'T SAY IT!!

NO!!

BUT DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY, "YOU CAN COME IN."

UNLESS YOU GIVE ME PERMISSION TO COME IN...

GRAB

LISTEN UP, LITTLE GIRL.

SHUT UP.

SMASH

SNAP

KKK...

HUMANS ARE SO FRAGILE, IT'S A SHAME.

POP

HM? WHAT'S THIS? DID IT BREAK ALREADY?

.....!!

.....

WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE... HE'S GOING TO BE FEELING A LOT OF PAIN.

SHOVE SHOVE

IT'LL JUST MEAN THAT HE'LL HAVE A SLOW AND HORRIBLE DEATH.

STOMP

BUT IF I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU TO LET ME IN, THEN IT'S UNFORTUNATE BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

AA... AAH...

POOR GUY. HE'S GOING TO DIE AND IT'S ALL GOING TO BE BECAUSE OF YOU LITTLE GIRL.

SO I'M GOING TO ASK ONE MORE TIME.

IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO SAY THE WORDS, NODDING YOUR HEAD WILL DO.

DO I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO COME INSIDE?

NOD

CRASH

THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION

UUU...

KU.... KUROE..!!

AAA... AAH...

DO YOU REMEMBER THE MEN THAT TRIED TO TAKE YOU AT THE TAILOR-SHOP? HE'S THEIR BOSS.

HURRY, GO UPSTAIRS AND CALL JESSIE—!!

BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ..?!

HURRY! RUN..!!

QUICKLY, GO!!

DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE... GO ON AHEAD. I'LL COME SOON AFTER I'VE TAKEN CARE OF HIM.

BU... BUT KUROE, YOU'RE...

YOU'RE HURT... AND YOU'RE BLEEDING A LOT..!!

DRIP

THUD
CLANG

CLINK
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN?
JUST TELL CATCH A COLD AS I KNOW!

MY... MY LADY?

UUU...

..

MY LADY... PLEASE... HELP HER.

MISAKI... IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR...

A VAMPIRE... IS AFTER HER.

SLAP

I'M SORRY. I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOU RIGHT. .

IT ALMOST SOUNDED AS IF YOU WERE ASKING FOR HELP, BUT THAT'S PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION...

SLAP

THAT VAMPIRE... HE'S AN ARUHIEK...

MY LADY... YOU WERE WATCHING THIS WHOLE TIME... WEREN'T YOU?

I... I CAN'T BEAT H...

HAAA

HAAA

CAN'T BEAT HIM..?

BRUSH

DID I JUST HEAR YOU SAY THAT?

COUGH...

SAY MY NAME.

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU HIT YOU'R HEAD SO MANY TIMES THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOU'R MASTER'S NAME, YOU FOOL?

.....?

MY NAME, WHAT IS IT?

KU...

KUROE...

KU-
RO-
E!!

THAT'S RIGHT~

I'M THE MASTER OF A THOUSAND SURREPTITIOUS SKILLS, AND THE ONE WHO MANIPULATES REMARKABLE EVENTS YOU CALL MIRACLES. I AM THE ULTIMATE BEING.

KUROE IS THE NAME OF THE GREATEST MAGICIAN IN ALL OF CREATION FOR ALL PERPETUITY!!

THAT IS MY NAME!!

FLASH

AND YOU HAVE THE SAME POWER AS I.

YES. YOU HAVE THE SAME NAME AS I.

KURO... E... .....

NOW, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?!

SNAP

THROUGH A FLEETING WHIM, AND BY A SMALL COINCIDENTAL CHANCE .. I BESTOWED SOME OF MY POWERS ON YOU.

HAHA

NO... TO BE MORE CORRECT .

NO MATTER HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EXCUSES YOU GIVE, OR HOW MANY MILLIONS OF TIMES YOU PLEAD

I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!!

SO EVEN WITH THOSE POWERS, IF YOU THINK I'LL ALLOW YOU TO ACCEPT DEFEAT BY A MERE BLOOD SUCKING INSECT

ALL THE NUMEROUS CHANCE EVENTS THAT CAME TOGETHER ONE AFTER ANOTHER... FROM THE MOMENT YOU ACCEPTED MY POWERS, COINCIDENCE CHANGED INTO SOMETHING INEVITABLE AND DESTINED TO HAPPEN.

AND FOR THAT REASON WE WERE DESTINED TO MEET, AND FOR THAT REASON YOU GAINED THE POWERS YOU WERE DESTINED FOR.

FOR YOU, IT'S POWER THAT YOU'LL ABSOLUTELY NEED ONE DAY.

KUROE...

.....!!

AND WHILE YOU'RE LOST IN YOUR INDECISIVENESS AND RUNNING FROM YOUR FATE, HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE PRECIOUS TO YOU WILL YOU HAVE TO LOSE BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?

DID YOU NOT SWEAR A KNIGHT'S OATH UPON THAT CHILD'S TEARS TO PROTECT HER?

OR WERE THOSE MERELY INSINCERE WORDS SPOKEN TO A GULLIBLE CHILD?

HOW PATHETIC !!

EVERY MINISCULE INCH OF YOU IS THAT OF A TRULY PATHETIC MAN!!

To Be Continued In Blood Alone Volume 5...

BLOOD ALONE

MASAYUKI TAKANO